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THURSDAY, JANUARY 6, 1910.

Nerve Strain on Soldiers.

Col. Surg. Dannel, of the German
army, makes an assertion which has
created a stir in Europe. In the new Army
Medical Journal the officer says: "The
next time Germany goes to war it will
be with an army which is three as
nervous as in 1870."

This statement is backed up with
figures taken from the statistics of the
Medical Service Corps, where it is shown
that in the last ten years the number of
nervous sufferers in the German army has
increased by 350 per cent, and those af-
flicted with hysteria by 300 per cent. Owing
to the stress of modern times, these
numbers are increasing relatively each year.

The figures are alarming, but the state-
ment is not overdrawn, as the investi-
gator points out that no account is taken
of the large number of cases of latent hy-
stheria and of a still larger number of in-
dividuals whose nerves may be expected
to give way under the baptism of fire.

The next war, the writer says, will
make tremendous demands on the sol-
diers' nervous systems, and only those
whose nerves are of steel will be able
to bear the strain. He therefore recom-
mends that a strict watch be kept by
regimental commanders over the nervous
efficiency of their troops, so that for
specialty training tasks a contingent could
always be immediately selected whose
condition would enable them to stand the
strain with the best prospect of success.

Life has become more complex, and the
specializing process through which we
are passing has had its effect on the
nervous system. We now concentrate our
energies, which means that we sap vitality
by allowing the greater part of our
physical and mental faculties and func-
tions to become atrophied. We live un-
der a constant strain, and the genera-
tions to come will be the greater sufferers.
Figures are not at hand, but the
proportion of insane may not be greater,
for those who in past decades went in-
sane now perish, lacking the stamina to
survive the pressure.

The pace set in America and Europe is
destructive; we all know it, yet make no
effort to change conditions. The survival
of the fittest no longer has the same
meaning it had when first used. Those
who now survive conserve the
energy others dissipate, probably for the
benefit of mankind, but certainly to their
own destruction.

As to "Uncle Joe."

Says the Bristol Herald-Courier:
"One of the curious developments of recent years
is the esteem Washington Herald's non-admiration
of the Ancient and Honorable Joseph G. Cannon."

Oh, we know it is more or less the
fad to take a fall out of the Speaker when-
ever occasion legitimately presents itself
or may be manufactured nowadays, and
we have no crow to pick with our
esteemed contemporary that it evidences
a disposition to join the anvil chorus
with respect to that gentleman; but we
have labored to small purpose in the
journalistic vineyard if we have not yet
learned to be fair, even at the sacrifice
of some applause from the galleries now
and then, if necessary.

It may be that distance lends enchan-
ment to certain phases of the political
game as it is played in Washington, es-
pecially relating to the House of Repre-
sentatives, but right here on the home
base a great deal of buncombe and
nonsense that passes for patriotism and
proposed reform a thousand miles away
does not impress profoundly or last-
ingly. We have watched the "outs" seek-
ing to overthrow the "ins" for a good
many years in Washington, and the pre-
ponderance of virtue has always seemed
to dwell with the "outs" as against the
"ins"—to hear the "outs" tell it. We
have heard Speakers abused and severely
arraigned by statesmen who afterward
came into power themselves only to out-
Herod all deposed Herods in the matter
of striving for partisan advantage and
the material things that go along with
majority control.

The Herald-Courier is mistaken when
it flippantly refers to our so-called "near-
admiration" for the present Speaker of
the House. Such admiration as we have
for him—and we have an abundance—is
real and maturely considered. But we
have never undertaken to apologize for
him or especially to defend him. If we
did, it would be entirely gratuitous; and
not that we thought it mattered particu-
larly to him, save in so far as any man so
constantly under fire might incline to ap-
preciate an effort to be just toward him.

Mr. Cannon probably has his faults,
even though we more erudite Herald-
Herald-Couriers may not have, and hence,
Mr. Cannon seemingly has done many
things of a political nature that he ought
not to have done, and has left undone
many things that he ought to have done.
There have been melancholy moments
when we disapproved of "Uncle Joe" and
fain would have had him see the error of

his ways. We fear confidentially—that
there have been moments, too, when
"Uncle Joe" disapproved of us, notwith-
standing the fact that he seemed not to
think it necessary to make any extra-
ordinary stir because of that surprising
circumstance. But nothing has ever come
under our analytical observation that has
led us to suspect for one moment that he
is anything less than honest, candid,
loyal to his friends, and reasonably fair
to an enemy. And we can forgive a man
a great many sins, both of omission and
commission, when we can feel that way
about him.

If it were not that we might be held
guilty of endeavoring to damn the Speaker
with faint praise, we should advance the
suggestion that, in any event, he is as
good as his crowd. Even then, of course,
opinions would vary as to how much of a
real compliment that is. And yet, when we
get right down to hard pan, the
Speaker is nothing more or less than the
concentration of majority control—and
"Cannonism" in the House simply means
regimental regular Republicanism therein,
and you cannot get away from it.

Now, if anybody desires to exhaust the
supply of superheated adjectives bom-
barding that—why, that is his business,
and it is a very different sort of propo-
sition. We merely opine that it is not fit
and proper that the sins of the multitude
be visited exclusively upon the Speaker,
and for no other apparent reason than
that he is a shining mark and easily
reached.

Wireless Control.

A bill has been introduced in Congress
by Representative E. W. Roberts, of
Massachusetts, providing for a commis-
sion to suggest some means by which
there may be proper and adequate regula-
tion of wireless telegraphy and telephony.
There are advantages of such an ar-
rangement, and it is surprising that this
government has accomplished nothing in
that direction with all the appeals which
have been made for several years for
some means to protect wireless communi-
cation. In the proposition which Mr.
Roberts has advanced, he takes into con-
sideration the commercial interests as
well as the official, as distinguished from
the military-naval, aspect. At present it
is possible for any amateur to erect a
wireless outfit and interfere with com-
munication. There are instances, which
will doubtless be exhibited to Congress,
of great expense and trouble caused by this
irregular operation of wireless telegraphy.
It appears to be a pastime of some mis-
chievous amateurs to send messages to
naval ships and revenue cutters, and
generally impede public business with no
other object than amusement for them-
selves. This might result seriously and,
indeed, in real disaster if there is no
official hindrance to this peculiar sport.
The lack of official regulation of wireless
telegraphy has already proved detrimental
to public interests, and something ought
to be done without further delay to es-
tablish a system which will protect wire-
less communication from irresponsible
meddlers. The bill which has been intro-
duced by Mr. Roberts provides a means
by which this desired result can be ac-
complished without peril to the com-
mercial element, which is a consideration
quite as important in its way as the safe-
guarding of official interests.

Searching Tax Dodgers.

It is an interesting effort that Gov.
Harmon, of Ohio, is making to bring about
a complete and equitable collection of
taxes on personal property. He under-
takes the task of enforcing the command
of the constitution of the State that "all
property of every kind shall be taxed by
a uniform rate, according to its true value
in money." He asks the legislature to
make a statute that shall be stringent and
effective. He would block the method of
evasion by citizens who claim residence
in another State. This device he would
thwart by requiring every one who lives
in Ohio during any part of the year to
make a full return of his taxable prop-
erty. Upon this the tax would be col-
lected, unless the owner gives satisfactory
evidence that it has been duly taxed in
another State. Failure to establish that
fact should be made conclusive proof of
residence in Ohio. Still another method
is to require that any one bringing suit
involving property shall be required to
show that the property shall not have
escaped taxation.

It is proposed that no estate shall be dis-
tributed without "proof that all moneys,
credits, and securities of the deceased
were duly returned for taxation." Other-
wise the property in default, or some part
of it, must go to the State; or else there
must be payment of an amount equal to
what the taxes would have been had
proper returns been made. This experi-
ment will be observed with careful
scrutiny by students of taxation. The root
of the matter would appear to lie in
individual honesty and public spirit.

Without them the unscrupulous will con-
tinue to profit at the expense of citizens
who fulfill conscientiously their financial
obligation to the Commonwealth.

Another Roosevelt policy gone glim-
mering! President Taft proposes to com-
bine two messages to Congress in one.

If the ultimate consumer can manage
to survive a little longer, he may see
the ultimate merger.

Mr. John Barrett has been elected
president of the Esperanto Association.
However, Mr. Barrett is still perfectly
willing to tell anybody anything he may
want to know, and in perfectly good
English, moreover.

The Belgians have started off their
new King with the title of "Albert the
Good," just to show there are no hard
feelings, presumably.

"Roosevelt employs only six skinn-
ers in Africa," notes the Brooklyn Eagle.
Well, that is six more assistants than
he ever seemed to need in Washington.

"Fortune knocks once at every man's
door," says the Blakely Reporter. Which
shows that it is not always well to be
impatient with knockers.

No President of the United States has
ever resigned, but if somebody should
put up the "What is soda pop?" ques-
tion to Mr. Taft, he might.

Mayor Gaynor's new secretary, "Bob"
Adamson, is an ex-Atlanta newspaper
man, and the Journal of that burg says
his "ripest" work was done in Atlanta,

long before he went to the New York
World. The Journal does not mean to
imagine, however, that "Bob's" subse-
quent work should be rated—er—overripe.

Where are the undesirable habits of
the yesterday?

So far, no one has started a "Back
from Elba" movement in favor of Mayor
McClellan.

Will not some one-legged jack tar, some-
time butchered to make a shark's hol-
iday, come forward and confound the
New York Sun and its anti-man eating
shark crusade?

The Houston Post has been making
fun of the Charleston News and Cour-
ier's Sunday editorials, and now the
Charleston paper launches the inter-
esting information that "they are written
by a lady." Looks like trouble for the
Post.

"Lo! the poor temperature," says the
New York Mail. Br-r-r-r-r! It is low
enough, all right!

"Times change. Bill Chandler can hang
his hat anywhere in the White House
now," says the Boston Herald. Still, he
has not yet hung it over the picture of
Mr. Theodore Roosevelt.

A "blind tiger" located in a well has
been raided in Tennessee. The neighbor-
hood will now have to find some other
vasty deep from which to call up spirits.

Dr. Fletcher says every bite of beef-
steak should be chewed not less than
thirty-two times before swallowing. The
doctor believes in getting his money's
worth.

Mr. Gaynor's high opinion of Mr. Charles
Murphy, publicly expressed, is entirely
to Mr. Gaynor's credit, perhaps; but even
Mr. Murphy will admit that it tempts
precious little wind to the numerous
shorn lambs of Tammany persuasion.

Mr. Morse's final statement concerning
jails and things may be taken to have set
forth an inside view.

"I believe that the primary purpose
of Mr. Knox's activity against me was
to force my resignation," says Hon. Ze-
laya. By and by, Hon. Zelaya will likely
conclude that Senator Rayner is no
friend of his, either.

Gov. Vardaman says he is being "bit-
terly opposed" for the Senate by the
"great money interests." That may be
the surface view; deep down in their
hearts, we suspect, the "great moneyed
interests" rather favor Gov. Vardaman
for Senator.

A carload of Texas turkeys that re-
cently netted the producer 11 cents per
pound was finally disposed of to the gen-
eral consumer at 25 cents per pound. Looks
as if that dear Mr. Johnning, the middle-
man, may get a fairly healthy rake-off
somewhere along the line of these trans-
actions.

The Augusta Chronicle of Monday last
carried an editorial on "The Checks You
Can Write." Oh, one can write all sorts
of checks, and one may, indeed; but
most of the time—anyway, what's the
use?

Hold tight to the water wagon, gen-
tlemen! Remember, a tide cometh after
a fall.

ANENT OUR STATESMEN.

Mr. Clark's Defense.
From the Atlanta Constitution.
Since the eloquent defense of Champ Clark, the
Missouri mule has no kick coming.

Mr. Bryan's Priority.
It is worth noting that in the classifica-
tion of the so-called insurgents, Mr. Bryan is
as the original. If this question of priority
should become an issue Mr. Bryan would get many
votes he never had before.

Mr. Roosevelt's Quest.
From the Lafayette Courier.
Now and then a word from the interior of
the Dark Continent says that Mr. Roosevelt still seeks
a white rhinoceros. Provided he finds one, the
beast would be worth more than reams and reams
of dollar-word manuscript.

Mr. Clark Is Sanguine.
From the New York Sun.
If the Hon. Champ Clark has any confidence
in this law of chances kind of logic the Republican
party is doomed and the millennium is at hand
for a people who for so long a time have fatuously
rejected Democratic statesmanship.

Mr. Cannon and Insurgents.
From the Boston Herald.
Speaker Cannon at Senator Cummins be-
cause he repeats himself. But that fact does not
warrant scorn. One of the interesting and warn-
ing facts about Cummins and his fellow-insurgents
is that they are repeating what they have said
in the past.

The Speaker and Ohio.
From the Charleston News and Courier.
It cannot be too clearly understood that Can-
nonism is Republicanism, the purest, truest Re-
publicanism. When, therefore, Ohio papers so
knowledge that Cannonism is without support in
Ohio they acknowledge that the Republican star
there has set.

Mr. Hull's Preamble.
From the Philadelphia Public Ledger.
Representative Hull is now proposing that Con-
gress shall investigate "the increased cost of living."
This is a very proper suggestion, but the preamble
of Mr. Hull's resolution suggests that he already
knows so much about it as to make prolonged
inquiry needless.

Mr. Hitchcock's Resignation.
From the Hartford Times.
The truth seems to be that Mr. Hitchcock has
Mr. Roosevelt's own part in the business in mind
when he wrote that letter of November 20, 1898,
putting on record this statement of the "powerful
influences" that had been exerted to weaken the
hand of the law.

Mr. Taft and the Railways.
From the New York Evening Post.
It is reported that President Taft "cheerfully"
accepted a few minor verbal alterations upon the
railway map, but was sadly disappointed at their
general attitude of hostility to the large changes
he has in mind. But was anything else soberly
to be expected from the conference?

THE BREAKFAST BELL.
Hear the morning of the bell.
Breakfast bell.
What a host of fond feelings seems to dwell
In the softly wakening brain
Of the slowly wakening soul
As he does upon the pictures of his bed
And its temptations
And its temptations
While they wait the coming of his bed
And the people—ah! the people
And they rise him from his sleep!

Round about his bedroom doormat—they would
surely wake the dead.
And they daily come and stand at him until his
sleep is fled
(And he feels it's quite inhuman
On the part of any woman,
So to speak.)
And their voices seem to swell
To a wild wailing yell
And he stands it for a spell
Till he feels it's very plain he will miss his morn-
ing train
And his morning feed as well
So he answers to the bell.
Rising grumbling at the bell.
The morning of the bell.
Of the horrible, unhorrible bell.

—Truth.

A LITTLE NONSENSE.

NOT PERFECT.
Her hair is dark, with glossy gilt
And sheen.
Except where puffs, of lighter tint,
Are seen.

Her skin is soft; 'tis snowy, too,
And nice,
Save where the freckles glimmer through
The rice.

She does not claim to be a belle,
Or boast;
And, after all, she looks as well
As most.

A Bidding Magnate.
"What has become of Johnny's engine
and his cars and his toy track?"
"The little boy next door has 'em. He
got Johnny to agree to merge their roads."

Going Back.
"Why are the funny men always kick-
ing about the turkey hash?"
"Give it up."
"That's a good thing. It makes the
descent from white meat to corn beef kind
of gradual like."

At the Play.
"I'm worried about that pore actress
turned out in the snow."
"Save your worry, ma. The usher tells
me the cars are stalled outside. That
actor lady's hotel is next door, but we
gotter walk two miles through the drifts."

Attenuated.
A word to funny folks
Might help a lot.
Some of their cherished jokes
Have little plot.

All Sorts.
"Some men go back when they forget
to kiss their wives in the morning."
"Yes; and some men won't even go back
when they forget their overshoes."

So Soon!
"Is life a blank to you now?"
"What makes you ask such a question
as that?"
"You haven't made any entries in your
diary for several days."

Back to First Principles.
"They used to hang a man in England
for stealing a pig."
"Well, it will be grand larceny in this
country before long if prices keep go-
ing up."

SOME PRIZE MISTAKES.
Selection of School Boy Errors Sub-
mitted in Competition.

From the Detroit News.
The following is a selection from a large
number of "howlers" submitted in con-
nection with a prize competition, ar-
ranged by the University Correspondent
for the best collection of twelve mistakes
made by schoolboys:

Lord Raleigh was the first man to see
the Invisible Armada.
In India a man out of cask may not
marry a woman out of another cask.
Tennyson wrote "In Memorandum."
George Eliot left a wife and children to
mourning his gun.

Thomas Becket used to wash the feet of
leopards.
Henry II died of eating Palfreys.
Louis XVI was gassed during the
French revolution.
Romulus obtained the first citizens for
Rome by opening a lunatic asylum.
The Rhine is bordered by wooden moun-
tains.

Algebraical symbols are used when you
don't know what you are talking about.
Geometry teaches us how to bisect an-
gels.

Gravitation is that which if there were
none we should all fly away.
A renegade is a man who kills a king.
The press to-day is the mouth organ of
the people.
A lie is an aversion to the truth.
A deacon is the lowest kind of Chris-
tian.

Pythagoras built a bridge for asses.
Etymology is a man who catches butter-
flies and stuffs them.
Women's suffrage is the state of suf-
fering to which they were born.
It pleats a verse—He cries at poetry.
Le coquer purrfe—The disinfectant yard.
Ad hostes supplies succedent venerant.
The priests came to the enemy in their
surplices.

Terra tribus scopulis vastum procurrit
in aequor—The earth being laid waste by
three scorpions runs into the sea.
Celeri saucis malis Africa—Celeri
saucis is had for an African.
Hors de combat—The hour of battle.

A Jacobs Story.
W. W. Jacobs, the humorist, tells the
following story:
A lawyer defending a man accused of
housebreaking spoke like this:
"Your honor, I submit that my client
did not break into the house at all. He
found the parlor window open and mere-
ly pushed his arms and removed a few
trifling articles. Now, my client's arm is
not himself, and I fail to see how you
can punish the whole individual for an
offense committed only by one of his
limbs."

"That argument," said the judge, "is
very well put. Following it logically, I
sentence the defendant's arm to one year's
imprisonment. He can accompany
it or not, as he chooses."

The defendant smiled, and with the
lawyer's assistance unscrewed his cork
arm, and leaving it on the dock, walked
out.

Atmosphere in London.
From an Exchange.
"Yes, this is bad weather," said Sen-
ator Tillman, on a day of rain and sleet.
"It is nothing to London, though."

"Once, on a dripping winter day in
London, a sulphur-brown or pea-soup fog
in the air, and everybody drenched to the
skin, I sat on a bus top beside a Parsee
in a red fox.

"When the Parsee got off, the driver
of the bus, touching his hat with his
whip, said to me:
"Would you mind tellin' me, sir, wot
sort o' chap that is?"
"He's a Parsee," said I. An Indian,
you know, a sun worshiper."

"Worship the sun, does he, sir?" said
the wet and shivering driver. "I suppose
he's come 'ere to 'ave a rest!'"

Ill-provided for a Rainy Day.
From Men's Wear.
Thousands of men who might well af-
ford to do so "never carry an umbrella."
Far from being ashamed at such a con-
fession, they make of it a vainglorious
boast. Many an otherwise sensible man
suffers from this weakness.

No, it Doesn't.
The management of one of the big
opera houses in New York has to pay
\$2,000 a week for conductors.
"Does it pay the same rate for motor-
men?"



The group of Senators who went to the
Isthmus of Panama on a trip of inspec-
tion and pleasure have returned, much
pleased with what they saw at that
place. They spent two days at Panama,
and in that time witnessed the system
of improvements. On their return they
encountered a severe storm off the Ba-
hamas. Senator Penrose in describing
the fury of the gale, said the wind was
blowing at the rate of eighty miles an
hour and the waves were about forty
feet high. The other members of the
party did not dispute the measurements
of the Pennsylvanian. Senator Heyburn
couldn't, for he was troubled with an un-
pleasant commonly called sea sickness,
and remained in exile. The Senator of
Websterian appearance was the only poor
sailor in the bunch.

It was noticed that the custom of drap-
ping the desk of a deceased Senator was
omitted in the case of the late Senator
McLaurin. The omission was the first
instance of the kind for many years, and
was commented on favorably by many of
the Senators, some of them regarding the
custom glibly and unnecessarily.

Ex-Senator Henry Gassaway Davis spent
half an hour or so on the floor of the
Senate, conversing with first one on the
Republican side and then with another on
the Democratic side. Most of his time
was spent, however, with Senator Root,
and he ended his visit with a heart-to-
heart talk with his son-in-law, Senator
Elkins. While talking with Senator El-
kins, Senator Bankhead walked up, and
after exchanging greetings with the once
defeated candidate for the Vice Presi-
dency, asked what brought him in their
midst. "Oh," said Mr. Davis, "I have
to come over once in a while, just to look
after Steve. I have to give him some
fatherly advice at times, and this is one
of them."

A great majority of the Senators are
very much interested in conservation, but
Senators Dick and Burton, of Ohio, are
much more interested in conversation
about the situation in their State. While
the attention of the Senate was directed
at everything that pertained to the pro-
posed investigation of the controversy,
they were attracted to each other in a
brotherly talk about affairs at home.

Senator Elkins introduced a resolution
in the Senate asking for an investigation
of the increased cost of foodstuffs. Soon
thereafter the jovial West Virginian en-
tertained at luncheon a distinguished
party in the Senate restaurant. In the
party were Mrs. Robert Goetz and Mrs.
William K. Vanderbilt, of New York;
Mrs. Nicholas Longworth, Miss Katharine
Elkins, the Vice President, Senators
Kean and Brandegee, Messrs. Gary and
Hitt, of New York.

Senator Gordon has taken a great fancy
to the likewise new Senator from North
Dakota, Senator Thompson. They took
lunch together, and on their return to the
Senate, Senator Thompson complained of
having a headache. Of course, the sturdy
Southerner was sympathetic, but he re-
marked that he never was sick, and said
the old war horse, "I haven't taken
medicine of any kind for over fifty-one
years."

There is no mistake about the State of
Georgia being in the spotlight continually.
In the Senate, Senator Bacon, of that
State, is "Johnny" when the spot where
it comes to a question of law, interna-
tional or otherwise; Senator Clay is wait-
ing to get another crack at the sugar
trust, and over in the House—well, they
are there with both feet; Addison, with
his defense of Roosevelt; Griggs, with
his cloak-room jokes; Lon Livingston,
with "I-am-a-farmer" look; Gordon Lee,
with his "Glad to see you" and the mid-
gels, Bartlett and Tommy Hardwick,
ever present and getting a word in edge-
wise with persistence.

The most important item of gossip
around the House on the Hill is the
Ballinger-Pinchot dispute, the formation
of the committee of investigation, and
probable findings. It is certain that the
special committee will be headed by Sen-
ator Knute Nelson, of Minnesota, and
from his sturdy character, his record for
honesty and fairness, it is assumed that
the investigation will be far reaching and
thorough. As to the make-up of the
rest of the committee there is consider-
able doubt, but it is probable that the
Eastern member will be Senator Elihu
Root.

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